

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action mailed November 18, 2004. Upon entry of the attached amendments, claims 1 - 62 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 23, 25 and 27 have been amended. The subject matter of the amended claims is supported in the schematics, plots, and flow diagrams, of at least FIGs. 1, 3A, 3B, 4 - 8, 9A, 9B, 10, 11, 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, and 14 - 16 and the related detailed description. Consequently, no new matter is added to the present application.

The following remarks address each objection and rejection against Applicants' claimed systems and methods. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims 1 - 62 are respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 43 - 62 are allowed and that claims 1 - 42 would be allowable if the various objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action are overcome.

II. Claim Objections - Claims 23 - 42

A. Statement of the Objection

The Office Action indicates that claims 23 - 42 are objected to because of minor informalities. Specifically, the statement of the objection alleges that "the computers" in line 7 of claim 23 is inconsistent with the specification at page 10, line 17. In addition, the Office Action indicates that there is a typographical error in line 1 of claim 27.

B. Discussion of the Objection

Applicants foregoing amendment to claim 23 is consistent with Applicants' originally filed specification. Specifically, Applicants have amended claim 23 such that the last clause recites "if said information is not discarded, comparing said information to a local policy that is used by each of the plurality of computers," which is consistent with Applicants' specification.

In addition, the typographical error in claim 27 has been corrected such that “he” is now “the.” Accordingly, the objection to claims 23 - 42 should be withdrawn.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112 - Claims 1 - 22 and 27

A. Statement of the Rejection

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 - 22 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that claim 1 recites both “said associated computers” and “said cluster of computers” in line 14 and that there is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Concerning claim 7, the Office Action alleges that there is insufficient antecedent basis for “said transceiver” in lines 4 and 5.

Regarding claim 27, the Office Action alleges that it is unclear what is intended by the recited “prior to transmitting said received and screened information outside said plurality of computers.”

B. Discussion of the Rejection

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 27 to provide antecedent basis for all claimed elements and to clarify the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention, respectively. Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 7.

Regarding claim 1, Applicants have replaced “associated computers within said cluster,” with “plurality.” As a result, said plurality of computers, as amended, has antecedent basis in line 3 of claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1 - 22 should be withdrawn.

Concerning claim 7, Applicants respectively traverse the finding that “said transceiver” lacks antecedent basis. Line 3 of independent claim 1, from which claim 7 depends, recites “a transceiver.” Thus, claim 7 includes sufficient antecedent basis for “said transceiver.” Accordingly, the rejection of claim 7 should be withdrawn.

Regarding claim 27, Applicants have replaced the limitation “outside said plurality of computers” with “to one or more computers within an Internet telephony administrative domain

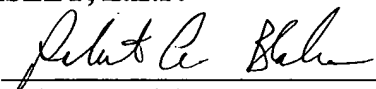
managed by an entity other than an entity that manages said plurality of computers,” and note that the recited step is in addition to the steps recited in claims 23 and 25, from which claim 27 depends. The recited steps comprise receiving information regarding a route from a first computer to a plurality of computers, performing an inbound screen on said information to determine if said information should be discarded, and if said information is not discarded, comparing said information to a local policy that is used by each of the plurality of computers, selecting a primary route from a group of routes associated with said local policy and said information, and performing an outbound screen on said information prior to transmitting said information to one or more computers within an Internet telephony administrative domain managed by an entity other than an entity that manages said plurality of computers, wherein said outbound screen is performed on said information regarding a route prior to transmitting said primary route. Consequently, there is both an inbound screen of received information and an outbound screen before transmission a primary route. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 27 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that presently pending claims 1 - 62 are allowable and the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any comments regarding the Applicants’ response or intends to dispose of this matter in a manner other than a Notice of Allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner telephone Applicants’ undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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